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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Poland

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Preliminary results of Agricultural Census 2010 in Poland

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Approved By:

Michael Henney

Prepared By:

Agata Kingsbury

Report Highlights:

Poland's Central Statistical Office recently published preliminary results of the Agricultural Census 2010. Data shows Polish agriculture's significant change since 2002, specifically with regards to crops sown and livestock populations.

General Information:

Conducted between September 1 and October 31, 2010, the Agricultural Census 2010 was the first farm-level survey conducted since Poland joining the European Union in 2004. The census involved full surveys of farms managing an area of agricultural land of at least one hectare (Ha) and a shorter “sample” survey of farms of smaller acreage.

According to preliminary 2010 data, the number of farms of at least one Ha of agricultural land totaled 1.583 million, down 373 thousand or 19 percent from the 2002 level. In 2010, the average farm size topped 9.5 Ha of agricultural land, an increase of 13 percent in size as compared to the average size in 2002. Within this group the smaller farms, ranging in size from one to five Ha of agricultural land, recorded a 23 percent decrease in numbers. Larger farms, ranging in size from 30 to 50 Ha, increased by 11 percent in number while the largest farms, over 50 Ha, increased by 29 percent between 2002 and 2010.

Preliminary data show that the agricultural holding structure changed as well. The ratio of smallest farms (less than one Ha) to total farms decreased from 59 to 56 percent. While the percentage of households with an area of more than 20 Ha increased from six to eight percent while those farms with over 50 Ha increased from one to two percent.

Preliminary data also show total agricultural land at a little over 15 million Ha, down from the 16.5 million Ha (about nine percent) registered in 2002. Land use changes show total sown area declining by about 0.5 million Ha (four percent), permanent pasture declining more than 0.3 million Ha (10 percent), and orchard area increasing by 0.1 million Ha (36 percent). The ratio of sown area to total agricultural area expanded three percent to 68 percent of land as compared to 2002.

Acreage devoted to basic cereals totaled seven million Ha, or 68 percent of total sown area.

Changes in the sown crop structure occurred as well with the share of basic cereals declining by 6 percent, potatoes by 4 percent, sugar beets by one percent and field vegetables by a quarter percent. Meanwhile, the share sown area devoted to rapeseed and turnip rape cultivation increased by 5 percent.

Preliminary data show the 2010 cattle population at 5.7 million head, up 104,000 head or 4 percent over the 2002 numbers. The hog population decreased to 14.3 million head or 23 percent as compared to 2002. Sheep numbers decreased as well, by nearly 30 percent, to 76,000 animals.

The full Agricultural Census 2010 is to be released in early 2011.